

February 2017 Meeting Minutes

This AYHSC Monthly Meeting was held on February 1, 2017 at 5:35pm the Whittemore Robbins House.

Staff Present: Ivy Laplante & Karen Dillon

Members Present: Kerry Austin-Smith, Officer Stephen Porciello, Carlene Newell, Cindy Starks, Joe Curro, Cindy Curran, Julie Powers, Megan Laurendeau, Jessica Winstanley & John Scheft

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Introductions, Accept Minutes of the January Meeting	<p>Student Advisors and community members all introduced themselves and shared their respective roles in the Arlington community. Anne Benson, a guidance counselor at AHS was a new participant. Welcome Anne!</p> <p>Julie moved to approve the January meeting minutes, Megan seconded. All present approved the January meeting minutes.</p>	Ivy will publish January minutes on town website.
Student Coalition Updates	<p>Project Purple game on January 27th was a great success. Lots of mini-projects are in the works.</p> <p><i>The Student Commission on Mental Health Awareness</i> (merging of AYHSC students and Student Council) are developing a plan for a mural listing resources at AHS in the main hallway.</p> <p>Julie and Sana are working on project Card Your Friends, in which students will distribute cards of affirmation and support to peers.</p> <p>Youth Resource Guide is being edited and will go live on the AHS website when completed. (Julie Powers and Colleen Ralston)</p>	<p>Julie and Sana will report status of projects to Karen.</p> <p>Cooper will report status of student commission projects to Karen.</p> <p>Julie will send Resource Guide to Karen for final edits.</p>
SAP-C Grant Updates	<p>Cluster is planning an event at the State House during the second week of April. Julie, Jess and Megan would like to attend. The purpose will be to talk to state representatives about concerns of underage drinking in Arlington and advocate for a laws that further decrease underage alcohol use.</p>	Ivy will bring updates to next Coalition meeting.
Project Updates	<p>Focus Group: Kaeli Jo Harney (school nurse at Ottoson) is working on a graduate degree research project. She will conduct a literature review on youth marijuana use and lead a focus group at the high school. Students will be compensated for their participation as an incentive.</p>	Ms. Harney will report results of focus group to AYHSC and the School Committee.

	<p>Screenagers Movie: The event was very well-attended, and included a successful panel discussion with questions. Parents were encouraged to create a contract with their children, restrict number of devices (1) in front of kids at one time, and to remove screens from the bedroom.</p> <p>Meeting at AHS about uptick in alcohol and drug use: Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (ACRA) is advised. Change the living space, change the environment. This is an evidence based practice.</p> <p>Ivy sent out an email newsletter to parents that listed parent support resources for parents of youth who are abusing substances.</p>	<p>Cindy Curran and Ivy will create a parent guideline information sheet to distribute to Ottoson parents.</p> <p>Ivy to talk to Mike Leach about programs to build on this model. Mike will send a resource list to Ivy including in-home services.</p> <p>Ivy will send a link to Julie Powers (for inclusion in the AHS online resource guide)</p>
Policy Updates	<p>Recreational Marijuana Discussion</p> <p>Driving under the influence of marijuana is still illegal. \$500 civil ticket issued to driver + passenger.</p> <p>John Scheft spoke about the current laws regarding marijuana use: Social Host law (\$2,000 fine + jail time), criminal law (\$1,000 ticket if you do not pay \$100 civil fine), Dept of Education (school suspension), MIAA rule 62 for athletes (probable cause needed to suspend from athletics). Every person under age 21 caught using marijuana should be referred to the Diversion program.</p> <p>Town of Wellesley takes people who do not pay their fines to small claims court.</p> <p>Arlington marijuana enforcement must be consistent; administrative penalties upheld in school and civil/criminal penalties enacted by police.</p>	<p>AYHSC will host a community marijuana forum at Town Hall next Fall 2017 after the final recreational marijuana law has been enacted by MA legislature.</p> <p>John Scheft will help craft informational letter to parents and students about ramifications of possession and illegal sale of marijuana. AYHSC will present information to school committee.</p>

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

The next Coalition meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2nd, 2017 at 5:30pm at the Whittemore Robbins House.